

being of our schools, our playgrounds, and the streets in our communities.

Each of us can recall an individual, either an acquaintance or a public figure, whose life has been ravaged by drugs.

In America, drugs have become a very destructive force affecting our children.

Now, each of us who is a parent knows the importance of sitting down with our children and warning them about the danger of drugs.

But men and women, like Amoroso and Benitez, who serve in the DEA, help our nation to curb the drug problem at its source. They work to keep illegal substances out of our country and investigate the culprits who are making illegal drugs available to our children, our communities, and even our workplaces.

In addition to their personal efforts to curb drug offenses, Amoroso and Benitez have left a legacy. They both have family members who fight the war on drugs today in Richmond.

Drug enforcement efforts have heightened in importance in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in Washington and New York.

As confirmed by DEA Administrator Hutchinson, there is a lot of evidence to suggest that the ruling Taliban regime in Afghanistan receives financial benefit from the drug trade. This fuels the terrorist attacks on the civilized world. DEA efforts to target international drug trafficking are critical to America's war against terrorism.

The fight against drugs is essential to the security of our homes and of our country.

Thank you for your service.

Thank you, Mrs. Amoroso and Mrs. LaRosa, for your ongoing efforts on behalf of our country.

May God continue to bless America.

#### REMARKS ON H.R. 3067

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation (H.R. 3067) that directs the Secretary of Transportation to develop regulations giving priority in government and private contractor hiring for aviation-related security positions to qualified workers who were laid-off as a result of the September 11 attacks.

The terrorist attacks have had a devastating impact on the men and women who work in aviation and aviation-related industries.

I participated in a video teleconference earlier this week with union leaders in my district, which includes Los Angeles International Airport, the nation's third-largest airport.

Representatives from the Flight Attendants Association, the International Association of Machinists, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, SEIU, National Treasury Employees Union and the Transportation Workers Union testified about how the attacks have affected their members. Some, like SEIU, NTEU and the Flight Attendants, lost members in the attacks.

All have seen tremendous job losses. 6,000 flight attendants. 140,000 in the transportation

sector as a whole. 110,000 in the hospitality sector. We can not let this continue. We must help these men and women. My bill does that.

It has been nearly three weeks—three weeks!—since this body acted to provide airlines with a \$15 billion bail-out package. I struggled with that vote. The airlines are at the core of the aviation-economy; we could not let them go bankrupt. At the same time, I and other members of this body were deeply concerned that the bill did not do enough for those workers.

The time to help them is now. One way to do that is by giving those who lost jobs preference when new jobs are created. My bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that the first priority in hiring aviation security personnel is given to the men and women who were working in aviation and at airports before September 11 and were laid off as a result of the attacks.

I urge Members to help these men and women and support this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 11, 2001, I was unavoidably detained in my district. As a result, I missed five votes on the House floor.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 381, to pass the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

In addition, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 380, the Istook amendment to increase the bill's funding for abstinence education by cutting funding for the Centers for Disease Control; rollcall vote 379, the Istook amendment to delay the enforcement of Executive Order 13166; rollcall vote 378, the Stearns amendment to shift funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to the Centers for Disease Control; and rollcall vote 377, the Schaffer amendment to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Act by cutting other education programs.

#### A BILL TO EXTEND THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA THE SAME AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS THE GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to give the mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the National Guard as the Governors of all 50 states. This bill is another important step necessary to complete the transfer of full self-government powers to the District of Columbia that Con-

gress itself began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973. District authority over its own National Guard apparently was not raised during the Home Rule Act process. However, it was unthinkable then that there would be war in the homeland, much less terrorist threats to the nation's capital.

While the National Guards in the 50 states operate under dual jurisdictions, federal and local, the D.C. National Guard (DCNG) has no local jurisdiction, no matter the local emergency. The President of the United States as the Commander-in-Chief alone has the authority to call upon the National Guard for any purpose, local or national here. Each governor, however, as the head of state, has the authority to mobilize her National Guard to protect the local jurisdiction, just as local militia have always done historically. Most often, this has meant calling upon the National Guard to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances and natural disasters. For such local emergencies, it makes sense that the governor would have exclusive control over the mobilization and deployment of the state militia, and it makes the same sense for the mayor of the District of Columbia with a population the size of that of small states, to have the same authority.

The mayor of the District of Columbia, acting as head of state, should have the authority to call upon the DCNG in instances that do not rise to a level of federal importance or involvement. Currently, needless formalism requiring action by the President of the United States could endanger the life and health of D.C. residents and many more who work here in the event of an emergency. Today, the mayor must request the needed assistance from the President, who serves as the Commander-in-Chief for a local National Guard. In an emergency unique to the District, the mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official, can deploy his own National Guard only by relying on the President, who is necessarily preoccupied with national matters, including perhaps war or homeland attack.

Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, the House has recognized that the District of Columbia must be an integral part of the planning, implementation, and execution, of national plans to protect city residents, federal employees, and visitors by including the District of Columbia as a separate and full partner and first responder in federal domestic preparedness legislation. Allowing the mayor control over the DCNG at a minimum demonstrates the respect for local governance and home rule that every jurisdiction that recruits members of the military to its National Guard deserves. If the mayor has local control over his own Guard, the Executive would give up nothing of his necessary control because the President would retain his right to nationalize the DCNG at will, as he can for the states.

The confusion that accompanied the September 11th attack plainly showed the danger inherent in allowing bureaucratic steps to stand in the way of responding to emergencies in the nation's capital. September 11th has made local control of the DCNG an imperative. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.